

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Classical tribute

Experience a mesmerising evening of devotion and dance as Dr Raksha Karthik and her disciples from the Natanam Institute of Dance present a special performance titled "Annamacharya Sankeerthana Sudha." This soulful tribute to the timeless compositions of saint-poet Annamacharya will be a blend of devotion, artistry, and classical dance, celebrating the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of India.

Where: Sri Ramanuja Samskruthika Bhavana, Malleshwaram
When: December 3, 6 pm



02 Poetry collection



Spend a lovely evening listening to Shivangi Jain's poetry. She is a passionate advocate of mental wellness and believes in harnessing the highest power of oneself. She has recently put together the best of her written works from the last 14 years in the form of a poetry collection, 'Polaroids—Life in Snapshots.' You will find a mix of all different spices here. There are tales of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

Where: Urban Solace
When: December 3, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

8 KEA staff detained in CET seat-blocking scam

Karnataka Examinations Authority officials express their shock over alleged involvement of board staff in scam, say truth will emerge after investigation

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

An investigation into the CET seat-blocking scam has revealed that a few staff members of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) were allegedly involved in a scam related to blocking high-demand engineering seats in prestigious colleges through the Common Entrance Test (CET). Authorities have detained eight individuals, including KEA personnel, in connection with the scam.

As soon as the Malleshwaram Police initiated their investigation, evidence surfaced showing a large number of seats were blocked. The KEA staff detained were employed on a contractual basis for examination duties. This development has caused concern among other staff members, fearing they too might come under suspicion. Senior officials at KEA expressed shock over the revelations. Initially, it was suspected that some agents collaborated with candidates to orchestrate the scam. However, the involvement of a KEA staff member in police custody has raised several doubts.

Police officials visited the KEA office recently to investigate the seat-blocking scam, taking



'During the third round of KEA counselling, 2,348 candidates who were allotted seats failed to join their respective colleges'

Contractual employee currently in custody has been working with KEA for 12 years without any prior allegations or involvement in malpractice —Official

one staff member for questioning. Executive Director H Prasanna stated, "The details will come out through the investigation. Police have taken one of our staff members for further inquiry after inspecting the office."

An official said, "The contractual employee currently in custody has been working with KEA for 12 years without any prior allegations or involvement in

malpractice. KEA officials are unclear on what evidence led to the employee's detention, but they believe the truth will emerge after the investigation."

Background

The scam revolved around preventing leftover seats from being returned to the management quota, ensuring they were filled exclusively through KEA. This recommendation was made by

an internal committee, which also suggested that COMED-K counselling should begin only after the first round of KEA counselling was completed. Following directions from the higher education department, KEA's executive director submitted an internal report on the issue.

During the third round of KEA counselling, a staggering 2,348 candidates who were allotted seats failed to join their respective colleges. Following this, KEA issued show-cause notices that uncovered startling details. As many as 2,208 candidates did not pay the required fees, 95 candidates paid the fees but did not download their admission letters, and 45 candidates made partial payments. Furthermore, in high-demand colleges, 40 to 90 seats were deliberately blocked and later returned to the management quota, enabling these institutions to sell them at higher prices for substantial financial gain. A police official added, "This scandal has exposed significant loopholes in the admission process, raising serious concerns about its transparency and fairness. Authorities are now under pressure to introduce stricter regulations and conduct a thorough investigation to address these issues and restore integrity to the system."

Vibrant music festival



As a heritage school in its 166th year, St Joseph's Boys' High School, Bengaluru, is a legacy school known not only for its academics and sports but also its music. In recent years, its annual music fest, CADENCE, has taken the school music scene by storm.

Bearing the tagline "Ain't no party like a CADENCE party," the fest feels more like a carnival than a competition. Started in 2019, the fest is a wonderful platform for students from classes 5 to 12 to exhibit their talent in several categories like solo, duet, groups and instrumentals in Kannada, English and Hindi languages. Started by the Music Department Coordinator Mario Dunn, this fest has grown from an initial participation of 13 city schools and 450 participants to become the first national-level fest of SJBHS this year with 45 schools and 1500 participants. In the words of Dunn 'CADENCE is not mine, not yours, but ours.'

'BBMP's Namma Clinics are fully functional'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Following Bangalore Mirror's story—Namma Clinics Face Shortage of Patients—published on Monday, the Department of Health and Family Welfare has announced a slew of measures to popularise Namma Clinics in the city.

Reacting to the article, Deputy Director (IEC), Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Arogya Soudha said, "There are a total of 230 Namma Clinics under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), all of which are fully functional. While it is true that around 10 clinics report fewer than 10 patients per day, efforts are underway to address this."

The department has taken significant steps to improve the functioning of Namma Clinics managed by BBMP. "A comprehensive audit of all clinics has been initiated, with dedicated teams actively conducting these audits. One key issue addressed during this process was the shortage of medical staff. Previously, 44 vacancies were reported due to inadequate salary levels. Following a revision of the salary from Rs 47,000 to Rs 60,000, the



number of vacancies has been reduced to just two, ensuring that all clinics are now staffed with full-time MBBS doctors."

Several observations were made in a recent meeting. "One major concern was delays in updating OPD data on the HWC portal, which was promptly communicated to BBMP for immediate resolution. Additionally, it was noted that some clinics are located away from vulnerable population areas. To address this, patient footfall will be closely monitored, and awareness campaigns will be conducted. If patient

visits remain low, steps will be taken to relocate these clinics to more accessible locations."

254 new Namma Clinics

The officer stated that the department anticipates significant improvements in healthcare services over the next three months, aided by salary revisions and enhanced monitoring systems. "In line with these efforts, the government has approved the establishment of 254 new Namma Clinics statewide, supported by a budget of Rs 108.36 crore. This expansion includes 39 clinics at KSRTC stations for improved accessibility and 215 clinics in backward areas to better serve underserved populations. The department remains committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring that Namma Clinics fulfill their mission of providing quality healthcare to all sections of society," the officer noted.

BangaloreMirror Namma Clinics face shortage of patients

BBMP health dept review shows around 10 clinics get fewer than 10 patients in a day; Ruoperna Agrahara clinic is exception

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, BBMP, has announced a slew of measures to popularise Namma Clinics in the city. Reacting to the article, Deputy Director (IEC), Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Arogya Soudha said, "There are a total of 230 Namma Clinics under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), all of which are fully functional. While it is true that around 10 clinics report fewer than 10 patients per day, efforts are underway to address this."

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New date set: Get your HSRP now

Only 25% of vehicles in Karnataka have HSRP, approximately 1.4 crore vehicles are yet to install it

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The Karnataka Transport Department has once again extended the deadline for installing High-Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) on vehicles, pushing it to December 31, 2024. This marks the fifth extension of the initiative, with the latest deadline of November 30 seeing limited compliance. Despite efforts to encourage vehicle owners, logistical hurdles and public reluctance have delayed progress, leaving approximately 1.4 crore vehicles yet to install the plates, even as 56 lakh vehicles have complied so far.

The repeated extensions highlight the challenges in enforcing HSRP implementation since its inception. The initiative's initial deadline was April 1, 2019, followed by subsequent extensions to November 2023, February 2024, May 2024, September 2024, and November



Transport department officials check for faulty HSRPs (file photo)

2024, before the most recent one.

Officials have cited issues like limited availability at authorised centres, data mismatches on the VAHAN portal, and a general lack of awareness as major reasons for the delay. The situation is further complicated by a pending court verdict on Wednesday that will address penalties for non-compliance and concerns raised by the HSRP Manufacturers Association of India regarding restrictions on plate manufacturers.

A senior traffic official explained,

"HSRP plates are a one-time installation that simplifies vehicle identification and strengthens law enforcement. However, logistical issues, lack of awareness and willingness have slowed adoption, and addressing these barriers is important to achieving 100% compliance."

Why must one install HSRP number plates?

The High-Security Registration Plates are designed to enhance road safety and law enforcement effi-

ciency by providing tamper-proof vehicle identification. These plates minimise risks such as number plate duplication, unauthorised changes, and tampering. Additionally, their integration with AI-based surveillance systems makes it easier for authorities to track stolen vehicles and enforce traffic regulations effectively.

Logistical issues, lack of awareness etc have slowed HSRP adoption. Addressing these barriers helps ensure 100% compliance

—Senior police official

Despite these advantages, only 25 per cent of vehicles in Karnataka have installed HSRP plates, with 75 per cent still pending. The implementation faces challenges like limited availability at authorised centres, registration cancellations, and hurdles in updating vehicle insurance and data on the VAHAN portal. Public reluctance to adopt HSRP further hampers progress.

With the deadline now extended to December 31, 2024, it remains to be seen whether this will finally prompt vehicle owners to install their HSRP plates or if yet another extension will become necessary.

Kannada film chamber forms PoSH panel

The Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) has established an 11-member Internal Committee (IC) in accordance with the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act. This action follows the Karnataka State Women's Commission's letter to Bengaluru district officials highlighting the Chamber's previous inaction. Filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh will lead this committee, which will tackle sexual harassment concerns in the Kannada film industry.

The newly formed committee comprises notable personalities, including actors Pramila Joshai and Sruthi Hariharan, Mallu Kumbar from the Karnataka Sexual Minorities Forum, KFCC president NM Suresh, women's rights activist Vimala KS, journalist Muralidhar Khajane, playwright Shashikant Yadahalli, producer Sa Ra Govindu, and lawyer Rajalaxmi Ankalagi.

The initiative for an IC in Sandalwood emerged following the Hema Committee's findings about the Malayalam film industry, which uncovered significant issues of sexual harassment and substandard working conditions. This prompted calls for similar oversight mechanisms across regional film industries, including Kannada cinema. The Kannada film industry has shown reluctance towards establishing a PoSH committee. —BMB

When music poured like sweet December rain

Raw, real and straight to the heart — that is what Raghu Dixit is

As the rain poured relentlessly over Bengaluru, the spirits at Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, soared higher than the rain clouds on Sunday. A live concert by Raghu Dixit, the iconic folk-fusion maestro, took audiences into the realm of the magical where rain did not matter.

As the first chords of "Sakkare Chakori" echoed, the crowd experienced a sugary delight for the eyes and ears, spellbound by the honeyed richness of his voice.

"Performing in my home city is always special. We've traveled extensively, launching this album in London, but bringing it back to Bengaluru is a milestone. We have sold greatest number of tickets in our career for concert so far so that's another milestone for us," Raghu Dixit said about the concert. Raghu led the crowd through "Gudugudiya Sedi Nodu," as he stepped back, letting the audience sing alone. "It took 20 years to hear these lyrics on your lips," he remarked, his eyes glistening.

"Just Math Mathalli" turned the rain-soaked audience into a choir, strangers holding hands;



"Preetiya Hesare Neenu" saw hearts lifted.

The concert concluded with "Lokada Kalaji," leaving an indelible mark. Raghu's parting words resonated deeply: "Live concerts are our real social media. You, the audience, are our YouTube, Instagram, everything."

The concert, produced by Akar Advertising & Marketing Pvt Ltd and Humming Bird Inc Events, turned into a heartwarming celebration with 3,500 raincoats keeping spirits high.

Sweet Return to Music

Raghu Dixit earlier spoke to us about the depths behind his latest album Shakkar. "Shakkar" was born during a time when I hoped I wouldn't wake up the next morning. I was battling darkness, lost in a void," he confessed. The turning point came unexpectedly, through an individual named John Paul, who sent daily musical demos, each note a lifeline. Their eventual collaboration birthed Shakkar, an album born from jam sessions

that stretched day and night, healing notes flowing like lifeblood. "John was the catalyst who brought me back from the edge, a true godsend," Raghu said, his voice thick with gratitude.

Raghu explained "I hadn't created any music for the past 11 years, apart from movie songs neither from within myself nor my own ideas. However, within the first 30 minutes of jamming, we came up with a tune and recorded it on both my phone and the system to ensure we wouldn't forget it..."

One of the standout tracks, Alemari, encapsulates Raghu's journey of self-discovery during a six-day trip. Through therapy, he discovered deeper layers of self-awareness, confronting personal flaws and embracing them as part of his growth. This journey of self-acceptance is reflected in tracks like Priyotoma and Khud Se Naina Char. —Sanjana CS



Pollution board chief post: Criteria not up to mark?

Ad inviting applications for chairman role with open-ended qualifications concerns experts

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A collective of more than 60 city-based environmentalists have written to Karnataka Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre, expressing concerns about a recent government notification inviting applications for the post of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) chairman.

"We have written to the minister with concerns regarding the dilution of the qualification criteria of the prospective chairman of the state pollution control board. We have urged the Minister to reconsider the matter before calling candidates for interview," said V Ramprasad, one of the concerned environmentalists under the banner 'Parisarakkagi Navu'.

The environmentalists have approached the minister following a newspaper advertisement by the government, advertising the post along with the required qualifications. The advertisement by the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department of Karnataka stated that persons with any engineering degree from an accredited institution or postgraduate degree in the science stream are eligible for the job.

However, environmentalists argue that Environmental Science is an exclusive subject that is not part of any other science graduation course such as Biology, Civil, Mechanical, Computer Engineering, etc.

Graduates from these and many other science streams will not have the



Experts say only candidates with knowledge in environmental science can tackle various air and water pollution-related issues we face now

Govt's notification states that only those with Master's in environmental science or environmental engineering should apply for the post

—Environmentalist

knowledge of environmental science.

"A person with no background in environmental science will not be able to do justice with the post. We are currently facing various air and water pollution-related issues. These matters can only be addressed by a

candidate with knowledge of environmental science. We can see an environmentally conscious and pollution-free society only when a person with the required background and experience holds the position. Otherwise, the day is not far when we too will suffer from the same fate as New Delhi," said the letter written to the Minister.

The concerned environmentalists have also underlined that the Karnataka government, through a gazette notification issued in July 2020, had itself set the criteria to appoint the chairperson. As per the notification, the candidate should possess a master's degree in environmental science or environmental engineering or an equivalent degree or allied sciences from a recognised

university or institute and have knowledge and experience in areas related to environmental protection. A candidate who has been a part of the administration in a government department or organisation, university, or institute dealing with environmental issues (including issues of air and water pollution, waste management, natural resources management, and environmental impact assessment) was said to be eligible for the post.

The notification also stated desirable qualifications: Special knowledge or practical experience in respect of matters relating to environmental protection or knowledge and experience in an institution dealing with the matters aforesaid.

"The government's notification itself states that only those with a master's degree in environmental science or environmental engineering should apply for the post. Moreover, the Karnataka High Court and the Supreme Court of the country have also expressed their inclination towards a person with an environmental science background holding the chairman's post of SPCBs. It is indeed worrisome that the Ministry has issued such an announcement, ignoring its own and courts' directives. The government is violating the rules," said another environmentalist.

As per requirements laid down by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the nomination of the chairman shall be made by the state government on the recommendation of a selection committee, consisting of members from various departments within the government for diverse opinions.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Roadblock ruckus
KG Halli



A daily roadblock occurs as garbage trucks are parked on both sides near the KG Halli police station, opposite the HP petrol pump, during peak morning hours.

This is the pits
Vyalikaval



A hole in the road formed due to heavy rains 15 days ago near the Vyalikaval Police Station bus stop is yet to be addressed by the BBMP.

Construction menace
Brunton Road



Debris and road damage caused by a builder remain an issue, cluttering the Brunton Road Cross and impeding traffic flow.

Where are our homes? Buyers protest

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Hundreds of people who booked flats at Shapoorji Pallonji Parkwest in 2017 gathered on Saturday to express concern over the delay in completing the construction of flats that were supposed to be handed over to them three years ago. They had booked flats in Parkwest Magnolia Tower-6, constructed by Shapoorji Pallonji Groups. They complain that they have been waiting for the flats even after paying the money to the builder.

"The construction of Tower-6 began much before the construction of Tower-7. The flats at Tower-7 were handed over to the buyers eight months ago, but the construction of Tower-6 is yet to be completed," said a home buyer on the condition of anonymity.

According to the people who gathered on Saturday, the construc-

tion of Tower-6 began in 2018, but it is incomplete even after a three-year delay. "Around 80 percent of the construction work is completed to date. We are not sure when we will get possession of the flats, as no one has bothered to reply to our queries or enquiries," said a home buyer.

They said that they were supposed to get possession of the flats, as per the signed sale agreement, in April 2022 but the builder got an extension from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) till January 2023 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. "The RERA gave one more extension to the builder in January 2023. The RERA allowed the builder to complete the construction work by January 2024, but the latter failed to complete the construction work," said a home buyer.

With no option, the home buyers entered a settlement agreement with the builder by fixing September 2024 as the deadline for completing the construction work. However, the builder got one more extension from



Homebuyers submitting a letter to the representative of the builder

the RERA. The latest deadline is January 2025.

"We are not sure whether the builder will complete the construction work by January 2025. As of now, no construction work is in progress. We have organised a peaceful protest on the project site to demand the builder hand over the flats without any delay," said a home buyer.

Many claim that some families have witnessed their children grow older, parents pass away, and even the loss of loved ones due to the stress of paying EMIs for under-construction flats while maintaining rental accommodations. They submitted a letter to the representative of the builder, who assured the former to convey it to the builder.



Chasing raindrops

Bengalureans start the week strong by keeping the hustle going on a rainy Monday

PICS: KAUSHIK JN



It's wet ride: Cold winds whip over B'luru

Bengaluru experiences wet Monday; city doctors advise precaution as cold winds, heavy rain trigger health concerns for children & elderly

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Bengaluru experienced a chilly and wet Monday as remnants of Cyclone Fengal caused intermittent rainfall throughout the day. According to Namma Karnataka Weather updates on platform X, the cyclone's circulation was located about 110 km south of Bengaluru in the evening, moving in a west-northwest direction. While neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and Tamil Nadu faced heavy rainfall, Bengaluru and the broader Karnataka region were spared from severe downpours, as weather experts noted that the cyclone's circulation stayed on the fringes.

The city's day and night temperatures have remained similar over the past few days, with the daytime temperature consistently lower than usual. Namma Karnataka Weather update reported that on Sunday, Bengaluru recorded a daytime high of 22.4°C, which was five degrees below normal. On Monday, temperatures hovered around 22°C. Weather experts noted that Bengaluru typically sees its lowest daytime temperatures during the Northeast Monsoon (NEM) season in November and



'Temperatures in the city hovered around 22°C on Monday'

House collapse: Elderly couple rescued

A house in JJ Nagar, Chamarajpet, collapsed on Monday due to the ongoing heavy rainfall, influenced by the Fengal cyclone. The house, which had been in a dilapidated condition, gave way under the strain of the continuous downpour. Locals immediately rushed to the site after hearing the crash and rescued an elderly couple trapped inside. The couple were later admitted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Police officials stated that BBMP staff visited the place and inspected the house.

December, with temperatures on some active NEM days dropping to 22-23°C.

Dr N Puviaarasan, a scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), stated that isolated heavy rain is very likely in districts such as Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Kodagu, Ramanagara, and Chamarajanagar. Moderate rainfall is expected over many areas in Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru

Urban, Chikkaballapura, and Kolar districts. Bengaluru is expected to have generally cloudy skies with moderate rainfall, heavy at times. Maximum temperatures are expected to be around 23°C, with minimum temperatures likely to drop to 19°C.

Scenes at hospitals

Over the past week, the district has experienced heavy rain and cold winds, leading to an

increase in illnesses among children and the elderly. Hospitals are seeing a surge in patients, and many are overwhelmed with the growing number of cases. Since last week, the cold winds have intensified, and the absence of sunlight has led to severe health problems in children under four years of age.

A pediatrician said that among the children visiting the district hospitals, around 60 per cent are presenting with symptoms like fever, cold, and cough. The adverse weather conditions have raised concerns about the possible increase in diseases like flu, typhoid, hepatitis A, pneumonia, and mosquito-borne illnesses. Doctors advise that children who have had fever, body aches, fatigue, eye irritation, cold, and persistent cough for five days should undergo a dengue test.

"In the past two weeks, a notable increase in illnesses in children has been observed. In some cases, dengue has been confirmed. Parents are advised to contact doctors immediately if a child experiences persistent fever, cold, or cough for more than two days." Parents are also advised to keep children protected when taking them to school or outdoors. Wearing hats to cover ears and warm clothing to avoid exposure to the cold is recommended by the doctors.

Slushy road haunts students & motorists

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The intermittent rains on Sunday and Monday morning have made life miserable for the residents at apartment complexes around Holiday Village Road, especially for school children when school buses were stuck due to slush and craters on the road. The locals have been facing a lot of problems due to indiscriminate digging of the road for laying Cauvery water supply pipes and underground drainage (UGD) pipes.

"The indiscriminate digging of the road has become a nuisance for us. With the roads becoming slushy due to the rain, commuting on this road has become a tough task. One school bus got stuck, and another had a breakdown due to the bad condition of the road. It caused a lot of stress for the students. I am of the opinion that parents should not send their children to school whenever it rains heavily till the road is restored," said Ajit Singh, a resident.

Expressing a similar opinion, Guru Prasad, a resident of Provident Park Square, said that he faced a lot of problems while commuting on this road, which has been dug up multiple times for various reasons by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL). "Traffic jams have become a norm on this road. The movement of heavy vehicles has caused a mess as more and more



A school bus is stuck on the Holiday Village Road on Monday morning

constructions are happening on this road. The connecting road between Holiday Village and the Outer Ring Road (Anjanapura) is also in bad condition," said Prasad.

Dr Vineetha S, a resident, said that the road is being dug at multiple locations since a year ago, and the work is yet to be completed. It has become risky for two-wheeler riders to commute on this road. "...We don't feel the existence of the road because of its worse condition. Around 20 to 30 minutes are needed for an ambulance to reach residential apartment complexes through this two-km road from the main road during the medical emergencies." Nagaraj M, a resident, added, "I appeal to the authorities concerned to restore the road as early as possible as it is the main road to reach other areas."

Meanwhile, BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer Rangappa M said that the road would be restored shortly. "The BBMP has a plan for white-topping the road. The laying of Cauvery water supply and UGD pipes will be completed shortly, and the road will be handed over to BBMP for white-topping," he said.

Drop in unnatural jumbo deaths over 4 years

Compared to 15 deaths in 2021, this year 9 fatalities seen, experts say count should be 0

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The recent elephant mortality data from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) points to a drop in elephant deaths due to unnatural causes over the last four years.

While 15 unnatural deaths (electrocution, snaring, gunshot, etc) were recorded in 2021, 16 elephants each were killed in 2022 and 2023. In 2024, however, only 9 cases of unnatural death in elephants have been reported till November 22.

Overall, 76 elephants have died (due to both natural and unnatural causes) this year.

However, wildlife researchers say the drop in unnatural deaths is not considerable.

"Taking into account the recent case of electrocution in Bandipur, the total number of elephants dying due to unnatural causes this year is ten – this is a big number. We should work towards bringing this count to zero," said Daniel Sukumar Das, director of the Wildlife Conservation Foundation.

Experts say the need of the hour is for the department to work closely with forest fringe area farmers. It is vital to understand their problem, as the majority of the conflicts happen at borders. Moreover, barrier upkeep and management hold the key to ensuring lower conflict cases, leading to lower unnatural deaths among elephants.

"The department has to maintain and rotate the barriers created to stop elephants from venturing out of forest areas. If they cross it anyway, farmers in fringe areas should be educated about not killing the elephant. This, however, can happen only when the department shares a good rapport with farmers and villagers,"



Only nine cases of unnatural deaths in elephants was recorded in 2024

said a wildlife conservationist.

Some experts underline the issue of land ownership. "Change of ownership might also increase conflict cases and unnatural deaths in elephants. For instance, the ownership of the land in Bandipur ESZ is not with the villagers. City dwellers have purchased these lands and have hired caretakers who probably are less tolerant towards elephants. The person in charge of the land should educate caretakers to not opt for drastic measures," added Das.

Low conviction rate

As per data from the forest department, more than 4,000 wildlife offense cases are pending in various courts. While 429 wildlife offense cases were registered between April 2023 and March 2024, only 8 cases were disposed of in the given time frame.

“Total number of elephants dying due to unnatural causes this year is ten – this is a big number. We should work towards bringing this count to zero

–Daniel Sukumar Das, director, Wildlife Conservation Foundation

Experts say a low conviction rate does not serve as a deterrent. "This year's data on the number of wildlife cases registered and disposed of shows that the conviction rate in these cases is less than 2%. The department should go after defaulters to ensure that they are convicted. The legal cell of KFD should follow up these cases to their logical ends to ensure justice is done to the wildlife," said a wildlife activist.

To ensure speedy disposal of forest offense cases in the state, the department, a few months ago, came up with a plan to appoint a team of

special officers. The idea was to have retired officials of KFD, who would not only help in filing forest offense cases but would ensure that these cases were expeditiously taken to logical ends. However, the plan has now been shelved due to a lack of approvals.

Wildlife conservationists and experts also underscore the importance of the management of exotic weeds such as Senna and Lantana to ensure sufficient fodder and space available for the elephants inside forest areas, reducing their requirement to venture out.

Going to court only way out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the complaint, such as mismatched transaction IDs and mobile numbers, which do not align with any payments made to his account. Calling the allegations "false and fabricated", he expressed frustration over the significant disruption to his business caused by the account freeze, which has hindered online payments and resulted in financial losses.

"This is a clear attempt to harass and trouble me illegally," he wrote, urging the police to unfreeze his account immediately and take legal action against the complainant for filing a fraudulent case. He told Bangalore Mirror that he had received no response so far and no action had been taken on his complaint.

Not a single case

In another case, Dhanush*, a resident of Bikaner, Rajasthan, has been grappling with financial hardship after his bank account was frozen due to a cyber fraud investigation. The incident stems from a complaint filed in the Madanayakanahalli police station limits.

Dhanush's ordeal began when he lent 50,000 to an acquaintance for a wedding last year. The loan, repaid in monthly installments by March, was settled months before the alleged fraud came to light. Despite this, his savings account, active for over 20 years, was frozen after it was linked to the accused fraudster during the investigation.

"The police are asking me to locate and bring the fraudster to them, only then can they help unfreeze my account. But how am I supposed to track someone who moved away after his wedding?" Dhanush stated.

The freeze has left him without access to his funds, causing severe financial strain. Dhanush's plight is shared by over 40 others in the locality, whose accounts were frozen after transacting with the same alleged fraudster.

No involvement – approach the court

A senior police official explained that anyone claiming innocence in a cyber fraud case should approach the court and file an appeal, asserting their lack of involvement. The court would then direct the Investigating Officer (IO) to investigate the person's role and submit a detailed report. If the court is satisfied with the individual's genuineness, it may order the unfreezing of their accounts.

"For those who have no connection to the fraud, it is essential to cooperate with the IO by providing necessary explanations. The IO can then trace the IP address associated with the crime to determine its origin and identify the real perpetrators," he said. (* names changed)

Bills pile up, power play goes on

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bengaluru Urban, Rural, and surrounding areas. Among the defaulters, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department owes ₹369.96 crore. The Urban Development department follows with ₹41.20 crore in unpaid dues. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) tops the list of defaulters with an outstanding amount of ₹1,091.59 crore. Similarly, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has dues amounting to ₹566.12 crore. The Department of Commerce and Industries is yet to clear ₹15.27 crore, and the Minor Irrigation Department owes ₹0.22 crore. Other state depart-

BESCOM officials say significant portion of the dues stems from disagreements between BBMP and BWSSB over the maintenance of borewells

ments collectively owe ₹54.34 crore, while various central government departments have dues amounting to ₹1.30 crore."

Confusion over responsibilities

Another official said that a signifi-

cant portion of the dues stems from disagreements between BBMP and BWSSB over the maintenance of borewells. "While BWSSB maintains over 10,000 connections, both agencies reject responsibility for paying electricity dues. BBMP claims the connections do not fall under its purview, while BWSSB denies oversight, exacerbating the payment delays," he said.

He gave the example that of BBMP's ₹1,091.59 crore dues, ₹888.81 crore pertains to borewell connections. "BBMP officials revealed that many borewells have dried up, yet electricity bills continue to be generated. Instead of disconnecting inactive borewells, new ones are drilled nearby, often using unauthorised

connections," the official said.

Notices ignored, meetings unproductive

BESCOM officials said that despite issuing multiple notices and holding discussions with BBMP and BWSSB, BESCOM has failed to secure payments. Officials from the defaulter agencies cite budget constraints and argue that their priority is to ensure uninterrupted public services. "They use the excuse of being government entities serving the public to avoid making payments. This indifference has only worsened the situation. However, the unresolved dues continue to strain BESCOM's finances, with no resolution in sight," a BESCOM official added.

RBI must set norms for DDs not presented within validity period: HC

Court asks banking ombudsman to examine bank's internal policy over its refusal to cancel high-value demand draft without payee consent

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court has instructed the RBI to establish guidelines for banks regarding demand drafts that remain unpresented during their validity period, including whether such amounts should be automatically credited to customers' accounts upon expiry.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, presiding over a single judge bench, stated, "Reserve Bank of India to issue necessary guidelines as regards the status of a demand draft not presented for clearance during its validity and amongst other things, if the amount covered under the demand draft can be automatically credited to the account of the customer on expiry if the demand draft has purchased the same through her bank account."

The court instructed RBI to examine ICICI Bank's internal policy regarding their refusal to cancel high-value demand drafts without payee consent.

The court declared, "Reserve Bank of India to look into this matter and to consider whether such a policy by the respondent No.2-Bank is proper and justified and if not to take such action as may be necessary against



respondent No.2-Bank."

Doddaballapur Spinning Mills, holding a current account with the bank, obtained a Rs 50 lakh demand draft in 2010 for P Bache Gowda regarding certain transactions. The sale deed was subsequently terminated. The company requested cancellation of the demand draft in 2018, presenting the original document, but the bank refused. The petitioner then approached the Banking Ombudsman. The Ombudsman dismissed the complaint, citing ongoing court disputes between the petitioner and payee.

The petitioner subsequently filed a court case, alleging the bank's mala fide behaviour in withholding refund since 2010.

Findings

The court observed that the bank failed to provide legal justification for refusing repayment, merely citing internal policy. It stated, "The bank cannot on the basis of an internal policy seek to override the law applicable in returning the amount due to a drawer of the demand draft, when the drawer himself seeks for cancellation of the demand draft by producing the original of the demand draft."

The matter would have been different if the original demand draft was not available, it was lost and what was requested was cancellation of a demand draft of which the original was not available."

The court noted that without payee objection, the bank's requirement for No Objection was unfounded. The court highlighted that the expired demand draft would be dishonoured even if presented. It remarked, "It is rather shocking that the bank seeks for no objection from the payee when even if the payee had presented the demand draft the bank would not have honored the demand draft and paid the monies to the payee."

The bank subsequently agreed to refund the amount. Regarding the banking Ombudsman, the court criticised their failure to fulfil their duties. "Respondent No.1 having been established to assist and protect the interest of a customer vis a vis a bank in the event of the bank not performing its duties properly."

The Banking ombudsman being an independent, impartial, and free person or office that investigates complaints against Banks, it was for respondent No.1 to have acted on the complaint and acted in the interest of the customer rather than dismissing the complaint." The court added, "There is a duty imposed on the ombudsman to act by considering all the facts and the law applicable in the right perspective. I hope and trust that at least in future the respondent No.1 will do so."

3 dead, 20 hurt in a bus accident on NH 48

Three women were killed and 20 people were injured in a bus accident on NH 48 in Kallambella in Tumakuru early on Monday morning.

The deceased were identified as Priyanka Mandal (26), Urvi Nayan (28) and Shubali Singh (26). According to the police, the bus driver tried to overtake a slow-moving vehicle ahead and lost control, leading the bus to crash into the divider and roll over to the other side of the road.

The impact was so hard that the bus windows broke and the three fell out, causing them multiple injuries. They were rushed to the nearby hospitals by passer-by but two were declared brought dead and the other suffered multiple injuries. **BMB**

Scooter rider dies after collision with petrol tanker

A scooter collided with a petrol tanker lorry on Mysore Road, below the Pantarapalya Metro Station, around 6.10 pm on Sunday, killing the scooterist.

The lorry driver was said to be going at a high speed towards Nayandahalli signal.

Kiran Kumar HR, a resident of Basavaraj Pete, Davanagere, who was riding the scooter received severe head injuries, leading to heavy bleeding. He was rushed to Victoria Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

The tanker, driven by 35-year-old Munna Saban, a resident of Shivashakti Nagar, Mumbai, was reportedly traveling towards the RR Arch Signal when the accident occurred. **BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Song of Hampi: Scan QR code for 'SaptaSwara'

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Here's exciting news for tourists visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi! After being silent for over a decade, the musical notes of the iconic pillars of the Saptaswara Mantapa at the Vijaya Vittala Temple can now be experienced again. However, visitors no longer need to tap the stone pillars to hear the music—instead, they can scan a QR code. The Vijaya Vittala Temple, with its architectural marvels like the Stone Chariot and the Saptaswara Mantapa, attracts thousands of domestic and international tourists daily. For years, visitors were left disappointed as tapping the musical pillars to produce sounds was prohibited to preserve their integrity.

Modern approach

As part of the World Heritage Week celebrations, ASI has launched this initiative on an experimental



basis. By scanning QR codes installed on select pillars, visitors can listen to a 26-second sample of the melodic notes—Sa, Ri, Ga, Ma, Pa—originally resonating from these 42 intricately carved stone columns dating back to the Vijayanagara Empire under the reign of King Krishnadevaraya.

Decades ago, the practice of tapping the pillars was halted to safeguard the structural and cultural integrity of the monument. Despite this, curious visitors occasionally

managed to strike the pillars, sometimes unnoticed by security.

Now, with QR codes placed strategically on the temple's columns, the ASI ensures that the essence of the musical pillars is preserved without risking damage. Tourists simply scan the code with their smartphones to access an audio link showcasing the enchanting melodies of the Mantapa.

The initiative has garnered praise from tourists and local stakeholders

alike. Nihil Das from the ASI, Hampi division, noted, "This effort bridges historical preservation with modern technology, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the unique musical experience of the Saptaswara Mantapa without causing any harm to the structure." Another local, Virupakshi V, shared, "Hampi attracts numerous tourists, but many were disappointed when they couldn't experience the music of the pillars. The audio feature has brought immense joy to the visitors."

More electric vehicles

Hampi is also set to expand its fleet of battery-operated vehicles. The district administration is moving forward with plans to procure mini-bus-style vehicles. These vehicles, which primarily operate between Gejjala Mantapa and the iconic Vijaya Vittala Temple, serve as a convenient mode of transportation for visitors. Officials said that the design of the new vehicles will draw inspiration from Hampi's architectural heritage.

Constable suspended for harassing woman

A constable from the Byatarayanapura police station has been suspended following allegations of misconduct during a passport verification visit to a woman's residence.

The woman reported the incident that is said to have occurred on Thursday to the West Division Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Girish.

Following a swift investigation, Constable Kiran was suspended on Thursday. The woman, a resident of Bapuji Nagar, had recently applied for a passport to pursue higher education abroad. As part of the verification process, constable Kiran visited her home.

According to the woman's complaint, Kiran allegedly closed the door behind him, made inappropriate advances, and asked her for a hug while making suggestive remarks.

He further threatened to cancel her passport on the grounds of her brother's supposed criminal background, demanding her cooperation. **BMB**

IPS officer on way to take up first posting dies in accident

A 26-year-old IPS officer on his way to take up his first posting died in a road accident in Hassan district, police said on Monday.

Harsh Bardhan was a 2023-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya Pradesh, they said.

The accident took place on Sunday

evening, when the tyre of the police vehicle he was travelling in allegedly burst near Kittane in Hassan taluk, following which the driver lost control and the vehicle hit a house and a tree on the roadside, police said.

Soon after getting the news of the

accident, Akhilesh Singh, who is posted as Sub Divisional Magistrate in Madhya Pradesh, rushed to Karnataka to collect the remains of his son.

The last rites will be performed in Saharsa, the home district of the officer in Bihar, as per the wishes of the

family, the father told PTI in Singrauli district in MP.

According to police, Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to report for duty as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipur, police said. **PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Gowri Savanur D/O, Achyut Laxman Savanur R/o 239/11/12/1,banashankari 3rd Cross,kr Layout J P Nagar 6th Phase Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Gowri Achyut Savanur .

I MEENA REDDY POOLAKUNTAHAALI MADDA REDDY R/O NO. 53/54 SIRI MEADOWS NO. 402 4TH FLOOR 5TH CROSS 3RD MAIN VASANTHA VALLABHA NAGAR Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name as MEENA POOLAKUNTAHAALI MADDA REDDY vide affidavit dated 04/11/2024 before notary S N MADHU Bangalore.

I, Nada W/o. Jafar Khan Residing at No.71, 2nd Floor, Agrahara Layout, 7th Cross, 2nd Main, Opp Masjid Quba, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 have changed my name to NADA KHAN vide affidavit dated: 02.11.2023 Sworn before notary: H Sridhar Rao, Bangalore

I M Shivaram Guruprasad S/o Thirupal K R/a No 08, 1st Phase, Adhitya nagara, Vidyananyapura, Bangalore 560097 I have changed my name to Shivaram Guruprasad Vide Affidavit dated on 28/11/2024 Sworn Before Notary V Anjanappa Bangalore

I, ASHOK KUMAR PINCHA S/o. BANSI LAL PINCHA residing at #11101, Sobha Silicon Oasis, Doddanagama ngala, Hosur Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100, I have changed my name from ASHOK KUMAR PINCHA to ASHOK PINCHA, Sworn before notary B M Chandrashekar dated 30.11.2024, Bangalore.

I, Kavitha Pristeen R/O no 199 4th crs F F Layout Laggere B'lore 560015 Have changed my name Kavitha B V to Kavitha Pristeen for all future purposes.

I, Balachandra Chouvan S/o Lalappa R/a No 94, Parashu rama L/I, Bhugathagalli, Mysuru 570028, I have changed my name to Balachandra L Chowhan. Vide Affidavit dated on 28/11/2024 Sworn Before Notary V Anjanappa Bangalore

I, MORE KAVITA RAMDAS, W/o Ravi Laxman Ahire, resident at Flat No C-306, 3rd Floor, Destiny Gables Apartment, Thubarahalli Extn Rd, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru-560066, have changed my name as KAVITA RAVI AHIRE, vide affidavit dated 29.11.2024, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I Achut Laxman Savanur S/O Laxman Savanur R/o 239/11/12/1,banashankari 3rd Cross,kr Layout J P Nagar 6th Phase Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Achyut Laxman Savanur .

I, Anantha Priya Sivanathan W/o Sivanathan C, R/o Command Hospital Air Force, Old Airport Road, Agram Post B'lore-560007 Have Changed My Name To Anantha Priya V

I, Tasneem Sultana W/o Abdul Kareem Khan R/o #320 3rd floor 20th block Arkavathi Layout Hbr Layout B'lore-560043 have changed my name to Noor Jahan for all purposes

I Shreeranjini Savanur W/O Achyut Laxman Savanur R/o 239/11/12/1,banashankari 3rd Cross,kr Layout J P Nagar 6th Phase Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Shreeranjini Achyut Savanur .

I, BI BI Ayesha W/o Abdul Vakill Ameer R/o #8 Ameer Aasra 8th Cross Bomannahalli B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Ayesha Vakill.

I, Lakshamma R/o Police Q trs compound, Yeshwanthapura, Blr-22 changed my name from Jayamma to Lakshamma for all future purposes.

I, Bukkittu Vineet S/o Nagaraj Bukkittu R/o Flat No 208 A Block KPL Garden Apartment 2nd Cross Manjunath Nagar Kalkere B'luru-560016 have changed my name to Vineet Nagaraj Bukkittu.

I, Tasneem Sultana Aziz W/o Mohammed Azeezur Rahman R/o #320 3rd floor 20th block Arkavathi Layout Hbr Layout B'lore-560043 have changed my name to Tasneem Sultana for all purposes

I, Sindhuja Akula W/o Vineet Nagaraj Bukkittu R/o No 208 A Block KPL Garden Apartment 2nd Cross Manjunath Nagar Kalkere B'luru-560016 have changed my name to Sindhuja Vineet Bukkittu.

I, Anthony Raj Arul Kumar A R/O no 193 Arul Nilayam 2nd CRS K G Halli B'lore 560015 Have changed my name Arul Kumar A to Anthony Raj Arul Kumar A for all future purposes.

I, Mohammed Azeezur Rahman Khan S/o Abdul Azeez Khan R/o #320 3rd floor 20th block Arkavathi Layout Hbr Layout B'lore-560043 have changed my name to Abdul Kareem Khan for all purposes

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE IV ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE, R.R.DIST. AT L.B. NAGAR
I.A. NO. 840 OF 2024
IN
O. S. NO. 200 OF 2017

BETWEEN:-
Ira Manoj Reddy AND ...Petitioner/ Plaintiff
M/s E.R.S. Agri Farms & others ... Respondents/ Defendants
To
7. Vakka Bhavana, W/o Manju,
Aged about 26 Years, Oce: Pvt Employee, Respondents No. 7,
R/o # 190, 13 Cross, Kondappa Layout, Nr Ganesh Temple,
Yalahanka old Town, Bangalore, Karnataka.
...Respondent/Defendant No. 7

NOTICE

That the above named petitioner/ plaintiff had filed the above said I. A. NO. 840 OF 2024 against the respondent/ Defendant No. 7 having brought as LR's of defendant No. 3 V. Lakshminarayana and the said I. A. is allowed and you are brought on record in the above case as Defendant No. 7. You are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court on 18-12-2024 at 10.30 a.m. either in person or through your counsel, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence as per law.

// BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT // Sd/-
CH. LAKSHMINARAYANA
MD. HABEEB.
B. SAI SUJITH
Advocate
Mobile : 9440476239



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Mar: 24, 26, 29, 31 Apr: 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 20
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We all know using social media is considered bad for you. A high social media diet is linked to anxiety, depression and FOMO (the fear of missing out). Even internal research data from Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, agrees.

However, over the last decade, social media has become woven into the fabric of our daily lives. It's hard to imagine life without it.

Young adults are especially vulnerable: 80 per cent of young adults use social media daily, spending close to three hours per day on it. For many, scrolling social media is the first thing they do when they wake up and the last thing before they go to bed.

On the plus side, social media can also help people connect with friends and family. This is especially true for people with minoritized or stigmatised identities: social media can help them find a community of similar others, who may live far away.

So what should we do? Is the only answer for us to quit social media altogether? Or is it possible for us to learn how to use social media in smarter ways?

A new study from our lab, the Promoting Equitable, Affirming Relationships Lab at the University of British Columbia, suggests that not only is it possible, but also, that using social media intentionally can actually improve well-being. The study's findings highlight the potential for social media to be a tool for good, rather than a source of stress.

Multiple digital self-control tools like lockout mechanisms and timers exist to help us cut back on social media, but we asked the question: what if simply using social media differently could maximise its positives and minimise its negatives in our lives?

Using social media for maximum benefit

In our six-week study, 393 Canadian young adults with some mental health symptoms and concerns about social media's impact on their lives were split into three groups:

- A control group that continued their usual routines
 - An abstinence group asked to take a break from social media entirely
 - An educational programme group that was coached in intentional usage
- The educational programme

SCROLL LESS, CONNECT MORE

Study shows how to make social media work for you



showed people how to avoid the downsides — like feeling pressured to look or act a certain way online — and instead focus on the good stuff. To do this, we emphasised quality over quantity in social media interactions. Participants built a healthier online environment by muting or unfollowing accounts that triggered envy or negative self-comparisons, and by prioritizing close friendships.

Rather than passively scrolling, they were encouraged to actively engage with friends by commenting or sending direct messages — a behaviour that tends to deepen meaningful connections while helping users feel more socially supported.

We also asked all participants to track their screen time and tell us about their well-being.

The study found that participants who took a break from social media or participated in an educational program on intentional social media use experienced improvements in their mental health.

Feeling less lonely

Our results are promising. Those who took a break felt fewer depression and anxiety symptoms, while those in the educational program felt less lonely and experienced less FOMO.

Our educational programme also inadvertently impacted social media habits. Although

participants in this program didn't cut back on their social media use as much as those in the abstinence group, they still reduced their screen time relative to the control group.

We suspect that as they started to use social media more intentionally, they cut out the type of use that made them feel bad but increased or maintained the type of use that made them feel good.

Stopping social comparisons

Both groups — those who took a break and those who completed the educational program — showed a decrease in the tendency to compare themselves to others online. This is a big step since social comparison is often touted as the root of all evil stemming from social media use.

Overall, both approaches reduced unhealthy social media habits and improved well-being. Using social media in an intentional, connected way might be just as beneficial, and potentially more sustainable for some, than quitting altogether.

Our results suggest that with the right guidance, young adults can curate a more positive experience, using social media to support their mental health instead of detracting from it.

Looking for genuine connections

At the Promoting Equitable, Affirming, Relationships Lab, we research how young people form supportive and lasting relationships — both online and in-person.

Part of what we do is to find out and understand how social media can be harnessed to help people find community. Conversely, we are looking at ways to avoid the potential negatives of the online sphere. While our study offers some solutions, the bigger question remains: How can we continue to foster supportive and authentic connections in an increasingly digital world?

Bottom line? Social media is here to stay and we need to find the healthiest ways to live with it. Through our research, we hope to start a conversation about how we can make social media a tool for genuine connection, rather than a source of stress, for a healthier online experience.

(By Vasileia Karasavva, University of British Columbia, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Depression & period pain

Cause, not effect

Depression could be a cause rather than an effect of menstrual pain, according to a team of researchers from China and the UK, who explored links between mental and reproductive health. The study, published in the journal *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, found that depression can increase the likelihood of experiencing menstrual pain by up to 50 per cent.

Technique used

"We used a specialised technique called Mendelian randomisation to analyse genetic variation and identify specific genes that may mediate (explain) the effect of depression on menstrual pain," said lead author Shuhe Liu, a PhD student at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China. This technique examines genes to understand whether a particular risk factor can cause a given outcome. It provides more reliable evidence compared to observational studies, which cannot prove cause-and-effect links. Liu added, "Our findings provide preliminary evidence that depression may be a cause, rather than a consequence, of dysmenorrhoea (menstrual pain), as we did not find evidence that period pain increased the risk of depression."

Disturbed sleep

The researchers specifically looked at disturbed sleep — a common symptom of depression — and found that it was a "significant mediator," or 'middleman', explaining the relationship between depression and period pain. The findings confirmed a significant causal effect of depression on dysmenorrhoea (by up to 50 per cent). "Conversely, no evidence was found to support a causal effect of dysmenorrhoea on depression," the authors wrote. "We found that increased sleep disturbances could exacerbate menstrual pain. Addressing sleep issues may, therefore, be crucial in managing both conditions. However, more research is required to understand the intricate links between these factors," Liu said.

—PTI

MIRRORLIGHTS

How to sum up 2024? Oxford University Press word of the year is 'brain rot'

Many of us have felt it, and now it's official: "brain rot" is the Oxford dictionaries' word of the year.

Oxford University Press said Monday that the evocative phrase "gained new prominence in 2024," with its frequency of use increasing 230% from the year before.

Oxford defines brain rot as "the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state, especially viewed as the

result of overconsumption of material (now particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging."

The word of the year is intended to be "a word or expression that reflects a defining theme from the past 12 months."

"Brain rot" was chosen by a combination of public vote and language analysis by Oxford lexicographers. It beat five other finalists: demure, slop, dynamic

pricing, romantasy and lore.

While it may seem a modern phenomenon, the first recorded use of "brain rot" was by Henry David Thoreau in his 1854 ode to the natural world, "Walden."

Oxford Languages President Casper Grathwohl said that in its modern sense, "brain rot" speaks to one of the perceived dangers of virtual life, and how we are using our free time.

"It feels like a rightful next

chapter in the cultural conversation about humanity and technology. It's not surprising that so many voters embraced the term, endorsing it as our choice this year," he said.

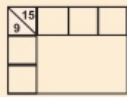
Last year's Oxford word of the year was "rizz," a riff on charisma, used to describe someone's ability to attract or seduce another person.

Collins Dictionary's 2024 word of the year is "brat" — the album title that became a summer-living ideal.

—AP

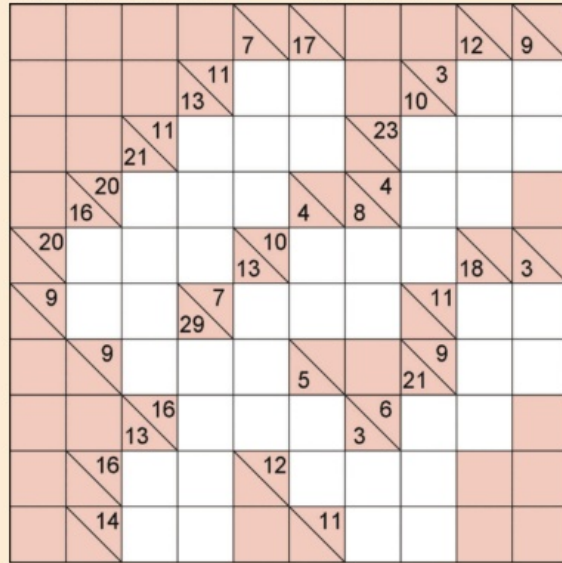
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

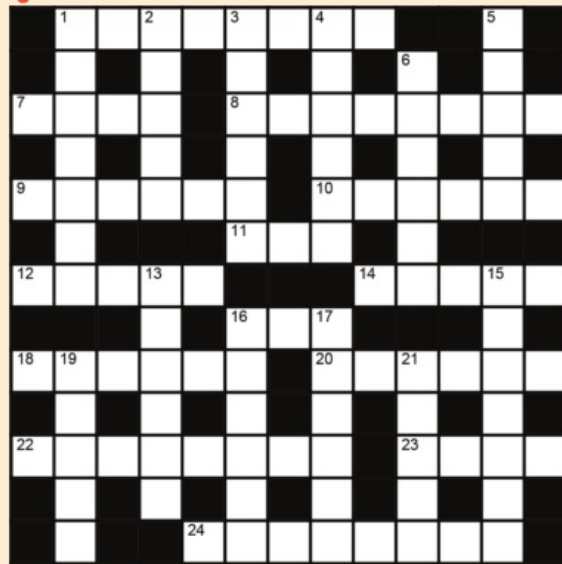


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 In a most pressing manner (8)
- 7 Signify or indicate (4)
- 8 In a slovenly and unkempt manner (8)
- 9 Conclude (6)
- 10 Join the army? (6)
- 11 British naval sailor (3)
- 12 Stretchy synthetic fabric (5)
- 14 The Muslim faith (5)
- 16 Australian bird (3)
- 18 Sketches or portrays (6)
- 20 Car house (6)
- 22 Seaport on W Kyushu (8)
- 23 Deep mud (4)
- 24 Performed surgery (8)

DOWN

- 1 Building: Skyscraper on M G Road (7)
- 2 Very clever people (5)
- 3 Nothing, zero (6)
- 4 Protestant reformer (6)
- 5 Merges, blends or combines? (5)
- 6 Grown-ups (6)
- 13 Catwalk (6)
- 15 Foretold; was a sign of (7)
- 16 Long steep face of plateau etc. (6)
- 17 More ungainly to look at (6)
- 19 Large marble (5)
- 21 Send money by post (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS T
 Z CPSY TS KCYZWVUY HZRYW
 YJYI DEY WDUTIOYWD HPX
 SUPJTCTVW ZD CZWD.



Linemaro

Even if there was no gravity left on earth, I'd still fall for you



Mindchow

Don't judge my choices without understanding my reasons



Joke of the day

Why does Taylor Swift have so many dresses? Because she is a very swift tailor

Loop

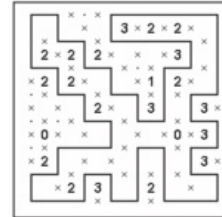
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

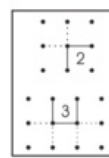
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

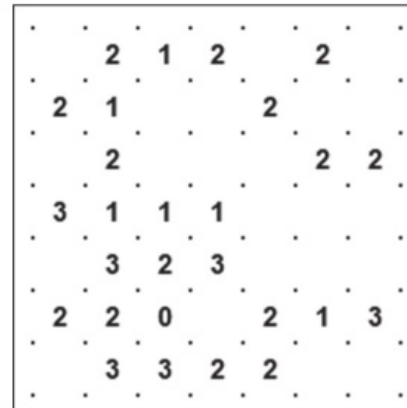
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



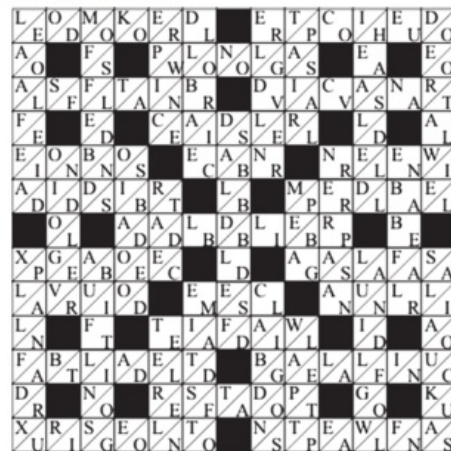
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



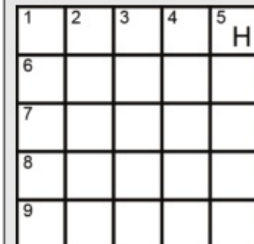
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

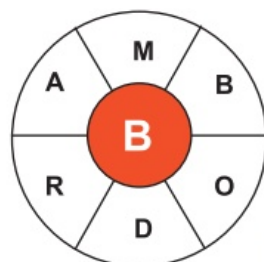
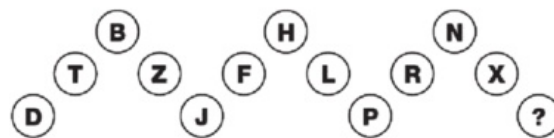
- 1 Ch Cat; 6 Ree Nu;
- 7 Rent I; 8 Beast;
- 9 Me ox i

DOWN

- 1 ie Cob; 2 X Anne;
- 3 Tut it; 4 Me car;
- 5 Sheer

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

3 8 9 9 = 5

Medium

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

3 6 7 8 = 7

Hard

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

6 8 9 7 = 43

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's arm is lower. 2. Neckline is different. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Pizza boxes are added. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Mouth is open.

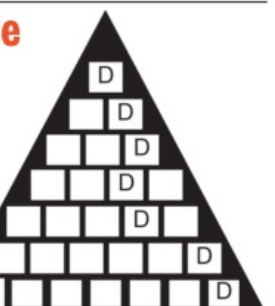
There are over fifty members in my family; Yet none quarrel. We all live merrily. Four leaders have we, all with a bride; Each has a son who has great pride. We also have servants who make funny gestures; But they are hardly used, as they often pester. The peasants are at the bottom of the line; Although they outnumber us, they haven't a right mind.

Riddler

Alpha triangle

- 1 Five hundred
- 2 Anno Domini
- 3 Depressed
- 4 Young fellows
- 5 Shows the way
- 6 Endured
- 7 Fastened

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankschaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, your subordinates may be cooperative, helping you complete postponed projects. You are likely to attend a social event, which could expand your network and benefit your work or social life. Outings with friends are on the cards, and lingering disputes with them might be resolved. Students are advised to stay focused and avoid carelessness.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, new sources of income may open up. Past investments could bring substantial profits, boosting your financial health. You might connect with a social organization that enhances your network. Singles may meet their soul mate and consider marriage prospects.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Love will be in the air in your personal life, and singles might find a suitable match. Professionally, you are likely to perform well, with support from friends and subordinates.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, your communication skills may work to your advantage on the professional front. You are likely to be more polite with those around you, which could accelerate the completion of your projects. Lovebirds may share their thoughts and build a stronger foundation for their relationship.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, blessings from elders may increase your confidence. Trusting your intuition can lead to success in your work and finances. A visit to a religious place with family may be on the agenda. Control any arrogance to maintain harmony in your domestic life. Students can expect good results with a bit of luck on their side.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may strike a balance between your earnings and expenses, improving your financial stability. Your performance at work is likely to be commendable, potentially leading to new responsibilities or a promotion. Stuck payments might be recovered, and you could gain control over opponents or hidden adversaries.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you are blessed by the moon. A new partnership may bring benefits. Your energy levels are likely to be high, and your hard work and enthusiasm could yield financial gains. Your self-respect will shield you from negativity around you.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you might see instant gains in your business, boosting both your confidence and bank balance. Avoid stress in your domestic life to maintain peace. Momentum is likely at work, and your prestige may increase. You might even plan an overseas trip.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may feel dull and unfocused due to sleeplessness, which could affect your efficiency. A visit to a religious place might help bring clarity. By the evening, blessings from elders may guide you to recognise and correct your mistakes, helping you plan effectively for the coming days. Take care of your parents' health.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may feel a sense of dullness and unhappiness. Avoid harsh conversations with friends and family members, as you might not receive the acknowledgment you expect for your efforts. Trust your intuition, but exercise patience when making important decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today may not be favourable, leaving you feeling dull and unhappy. A mysterious fear might bother you, and you could be drawn to occult topics. A lack of confidence might affect your work. Avoid risky activities such as driving recklessly or adventurous tours.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may feel hurried, so drive safely and proceed cautiously. With blessings from elders, you are likely to navigate through challenging situations. Romantic energy may uplift your love life, and domestic harmony is likely to improve. Positive developments in new partnerships are expected, and lovebirds will enjoy happy moments together. Students might receive good news.

KIDZONE



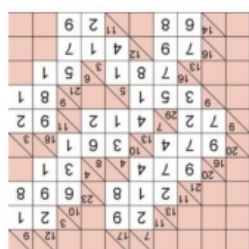
Chiran M,
DPS School,
Bengaluru



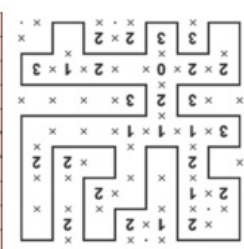
Kaviksha M,
HMR School,
Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

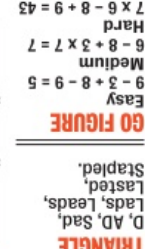
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



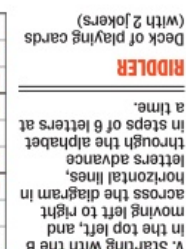
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



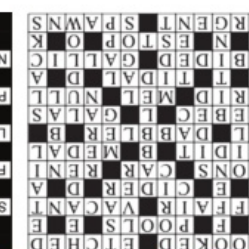
SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS EYE



SOLVE IN 1M



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Max is special

The much-awaited multi-lingual movie Max is scheduled to arrive in theaters on December 25. Kichcha Sudeep plays the lead in the movie helmed by Vijay Karthikeyaa. At an event on Sunday, Sudeep thanked all the technicians and co-stars for their hard work and said the movie is special for him and his family. "My mother wanted to watch this movie. She used to ask me to arrange its screening but I could not accomplish her wish,"

Sudeep said.

He said the movie is about the incidents that took place in one night but it is a high-octane action movie. Appreciating Vijay Karthikeyaa for his simplicity and hard work, Sudeep said that he agreed to act in the



movie because of its story.

"Producer Kalaippuli S Thanu called me over the phone from Chennai informing me about Karthikeyaa coming to Bengaluru to narrate the script to me. He wanted to return the same day but I asked him to stay for a week. We improvised the script as the original script was meant for a Tamil movie," he said.

He said he met producer Thanu in 2004 in Chennai through a common friend. "I agreed to act in Max because the producer was generous with me when I asked for the remake rights of the Tamil movie Kaka Kaka," he said.

Crazy for love

Debutant director Rish Hiremath from Ballari has been busy with making arrangements for promotional programmes of his maiden movie Burget Basya. The debutant director claims the movie is based on his life.

"The movie is based on an incident in my life. I was in love with a girl. I wanted to marry her but she advised me to become somebody in society. There were only two options – competitive exams or movies. I preferred movies and joined a film institute. Meanwhile, the girl married another person and is leading a happy family life," said Hiremath.

He said he had to work as an office boy to make both ends meet in Bengaluru. "Initially my friends wanted to



start the shooting of this movie with a small budget. We released the teaser that was unveiled by the then president of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce Ba Ma Harish. After watching the teaser, he advised me to play the lead," he said. "Nagarjuna Reddy, a farmer from Bellary, came forward to bankroll this movie. He also plays the villain," he said. The movie is set for release on February 14.

REAL BEAUTY



Tamannaah explains how she shunned unrealistic body standards

Tamannaah Bhatia is currently seen in 'Sikandar Ka Muqaddar' on OTT and this comes after an array of releases for her this year.

Tamannaah hasn't set any unreal beauty standards and displayed her original body type always. During a chat with ETimes, Tamannaah revealed why she feels the need to do so.

"It stems from the fact that I myself grew up on unrealistic body standards. I was that child who thought that being skinny is being fit. As I evolved through my journey, movies were the biggest way of learning that a natural outcome of being fit was feeling good, looking good and everything around feeling good. In today's day and age, what I didn't get as a child, I feel that if I'm in a position of power today, maybe some girl out there watching can see my journey and understand that beauty has nothing to do with a particular shape and size. Beauty is actually what you think of yourself. Largely, your entire life is a perception of it," said Tamannaah.

The actress admitted that it has not been an easy journey. "To be honest, it's not something I arrived at early. I wasn't always confident in my body. It's something which I've arrived at very recently. You know what, a woman's body changes a lot. I've been in front of the camera since I was 15. I have seen myself in my 20s and now I'm in my 30s. I see how my body is changing. I understand the pressure everyday of literally being under a microscope, being in front of the camera." She further elaborated, "It's literally like being under a microscope. It can see through your pores and your soul!"

—ETimes

In touch with emotions



Shahid Kapoor rarely discusses his personal life, but he recently opened up during a conversation on the podcast. The actor recalled his past relationship with Kareena Kapoor Khan on Faye D'Souza's YouTube channel, revealing that he experienced heartbreak that led to him crying on set. He shared insights about the ups and downs in both his personal and professional life.

When asked if he ever wept alone because of his career, Shahid shared, "That only happened to me when I went through heartbreak. And, sometimes it happens when you are making movies. So, I have had that. It was really bad." He recalled a moment when his makeup artist urged him to hold it together after just finishing his makeup. Shahid expressed his vulnerability, stating, "I can't help it; I think I am destroying myself."

He also spoke about the one thing men need to change in their life. "Indian men especially have been kind of told from a very young age that you have to be the provider, that you have to protect, and be the man of the family... Why can't we flip roles sometimes? You can feel like that, and it's fair to feel like that because eventually everybody is human. We feel all kinds of emotions..."

— ETimes

Nargis Fakhri's sister arrested for murder in the US

Rockstar' girl Nargis Fakhri' has a sister who is currently in the news as she's been accused of killing her ex-boyfriend. Aliya has

been arrested for murder of her ex-boyfriend and his new female friend out of jealousy. The 43-year old allegedly started a fire which caused the death of her ex and his new friend.

According to a report by the Daily News, Aliya set a two-storey garage on fire, in Queens, New York which killed Edward Jacobs and Anastasia "Star" Ettienne. She was arrested and not given bail in the Criminal Court. District Attorney Melinda Katz said in a statement, "This defendant maliciously ended the lives of two people by setting a fire that

trapped a man and woman in a raging inferno. The victims tragically died from smoke inhalation and thermal injuries."

However, Nargis' mother spoke to the news outlet and denied the possibility of her daughter doing anything of this sort. She said, "I don't think she would be killing someone. She was a person who was caring for everybody. She tried to help everybody." She revealed that her daughter Aliya struggled with the addition of opioids after a dental mishap.

A witness present at the crime venue said, "We smelled something sweet burning. I don't know if it was gasoline or what. We ran out and the couch on the stairs was on fire and we had to jump over it to get out..."

—ETimes



Strength of vulnerability

Singer-actress Selena Gomez says showing vulnerability is "one of the strongest things you can do".

Gomez shared her struggles with the world in her 2022 documentary film 'Selena Gomez: My Mind and Me', and she has now said that she felt a little nervous about releasing the project.

The singer, who opened up about her physical and mental health in the film, told 'CBS Sunday Morning': "Once I released it, it felt like a huge relief, because I am a firm believer that one of the strongest things you can do is be vulnerable. And that doesn't mean you have to pour your heart out to everyone. "But I made that choice, because I knew I wasn't the only one that felt that way. And if my world was already out there for everyone to see, I'd like to tell my part of the story. And to add on that, it's a dream what I'm doing."

In 2022, Gomez launched a charity that helps young people who suffer from mental health issues.

— IANS

